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SYNNESTVEDT & LECHNER, LLP
2600 Aramark Tower
1101 Market Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107-2950

In re application of

Joshua M. Kopelman et al.

Application No. 10/743,982

Filed: December 22, 2003

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR FACILITATING
SALES OF GOODS BY INDEPENDENT PARTIES

**DECISION ON REQUEST
FOR WITHDRAWAL OF
ATTORNEY**

This is a decision on the request filed on November 22, 2004, under 37 CFR 1.36 and MPEP 402.06, requesting permission to withdraw as the attorney of record in the above-identified application.

The request is **NOT APPROVED as Moot.**

Under 37 CFR 1.36 an attorney may withdraw only upon application to and approval by the Commissioner. It should be noted that a withdrawal is effective when approved, not when filed. Besides giving due notice to his or her client and delivering to the client all papers and property to which the client is entitled as specified under 37 CFR 10.40, approval of such a request requires that the following conditions be met:

- A) Each attorney of record must sign the notice of withdrawal, or the notice must contain a clear indication of one attorney signing on behalf of another, because the Office does not recognize law firms;
- B) A proper reason for the withdrawal as enumerated in 37 CFR 10.40(b) or subsection (1)-(6) of 37 CFR 10.40(c) must be provided; and
- C) If withdrawal is requested in accordance with 37 CFR 10.40(c) above, there must be at least 30 days between approval of the withdrawal and the later of the expiration date of a time period for reply or the expiration date of the period which can be obtained by a petition and fee for extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136(a).

The request to withdraw as attorney in the above-identified application is not approved as moot because the attorney making the request; Tarek N. Fahmi, does not now have, and apparently never has had, power of attorney in this application. There is no record of power of attorney ever being given to the attorney making the request or anyone associated with customer number 08791.

Further, the request does not comply with Item B).

As to Item B), the reason "Discontinuation of the attorney/client relationship" is not appropriate since it is not clear that the client initiated the discontinuation, or that the client knowingly or freely assents to the transfer to new counsel. A proper reason for withdrawal is enumerated in 37 CFR 10.40(b) subsections (1)-(4) or subsections (1)-(6) of 37 CFR 10.40(c) must be provided.



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SNM/pav: 01/13/05

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